

CRP Conservation Reserve Program

It Pays

- Wildlife Habitat
- Clean Water
- Reduced Erosion



DNR photo

*Quail need clumps of dense shrubby cover for daily protection, spending most of the winter within 70 feet of shrubby cover. Shrub plantings are optional and shall **not** exceed 10 percent of contract acreage.*

Assisting Organizations

USDA – Farm Service Agency

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ia/>

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation

Service <http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/>



Iowa Department of Natural Resources www.iowadnr.com



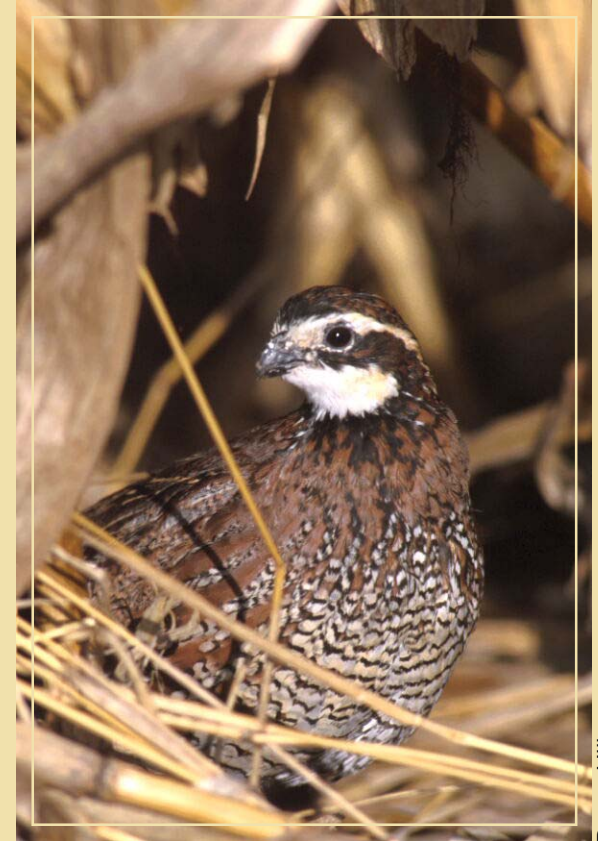
Pheasants Forever

www.iowapheasantsforever.org

The Iowa DNR recommends shrubs grown in Iowa, because these plants are suitable for Iowa's growing conditions. Plant materials can be purchased at local nurseries and seed dealers. Ask about the quail wildlife shrub planting packet available from the DNR State Forest Nursery — 800-865-2477 or www.iowatreeplanting.com.

USDA
Farm Service Agency
State Farm Service Agency
10500 Buena Vista Court
Des Moines, IA 50322

Open the Door to Bobwhite Quail & Songbirds



Roger Hill

CRP Continuous Sign-up

- Bring back quail and song birds
- Provide nest and brood areas
- Improve water quality
- Increase income — it pays

Continuous Sign-up

Bobwhite Buffers

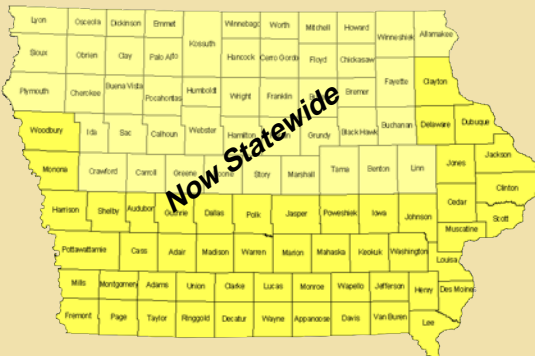
Conservation Reserve Program

Habitat Buffers for Bobwhite Quail and Songbirds

For the first time, Iowa producers can enroll habitat buffers around cropland into the continuous CRP to benefit bobwhite quail and other songbirds. The purpose of this new conservation practice is to reverse the long-term decline of quail and other songbird populations from an estimated 59 million birds in 1980 to about 20 million in 1999. Throughout their range of 35 states, quail habitat is disappearing due to urbanization, loss of native grasslands, intensive agriculture and once grassy fields transitioning into forests.

The buffers must be installed around the edges of existing crop fields, preferably next to woody cover. The average width of the enrolled area must be between 30 and 120 feet wide. Buffer species may include native warm-season grasses, legumes, wildflowers, forbs, and limited shrub plantings. Producers will not be able to enroll land that is used for turn rows, roads, or for storage of crops or equipment.

Eligible Counties



Carl Kurtz

Songbirds such as the loggerhead shrike and Henslow's sparrow also benefit from field buffers.

Starting in October, 2004, producers in eligible counties can sign up at the local USDA Farm Service Agency. However, the sign up is limited to 20,000 acres, "first-come, first-served." The sign-up will end when the state's 20,000 acres are enrolled or on Dec. 31, 2007. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service provides technical help on designing buffers and choosing plant materials. Contact a DNR wildlife biologist for more information about native grass and flower species suitable for your site.

Purpose

- Create corridor for wildlife movement
- Provide wildlife food
- Provide nesting, brood and winter cover
- Provide habitat for beneficial insects
- Reduce erosion
- Improve water quality
- Improve income by moving crops away from woody field edges

Payments

Cost-share

50 percent cost-share, with a 40 percent practice incentive payment for establishment costs

Rental rate

Based on maximum soil rental rate established for the three predominant soils

Ten year contract length

Sign-up bonus payment

\$100 per acre first year of practice

Eligibility

- Land that was cropped or considered cropped four out of the six years from 1996 to 2001.
- Eligible cropland includes row crops, small grains and forage crops.
- Buffer may not include the entire field.



Missouri Department of Conservation

Open spaces between plants provide optimum cover to allow quail chicks and adults to travel undetected by predators. Chicks prefer 30 to 75 percent bare ground.

USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.